



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

May 12, 2005

**RE: UNITED STATES v. CORNELIUS COLEMAN MARTIN II,  
a/k/a NEAL MARTIN and CORNELIUS COLEMAN MARTIN III,  
a/k/a COLE MARTIN**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the May 11, 2005 sentencing of Cornelius Coleman Martin II, a/k/a Neal Martin, 52, of Gainesville, Georgia (formerly of Youngstown and Niagara Falls, New York) and his son, Cornelius Coleman Martin III, a/k/a Cole Martin, 26, also of Gainesville, Georgia (formerly of Youngstown and Niagara Falls, New York), who each plead guilty to one-count of wire fraud on November 29, 2004. Neal Martin was sentenced to 37 months imprisonment, a 3 year term of supervised release, and restitution in the amount of \$1,781,987.96. Cole Martin was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, a 3 year term of supervised release and restitution in the amount of \$1,270,395.60. An additional component of the sentences imposed prohibits the defendants from working together in any capacity during the 3 year period of supervised release. Both defendants were sentenced by United States District Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia, who handled the case, stated that from 1998 through 2003, the Martins defrauded hundreds of victims, including consumers, vendors and a credit card payment processor, through their operation of several lumber and flooring businesses which at one time were located in the Western District of New York. Judge Skretny sentenced the defendants to the maximum term of imprisonment prescribed by the now advisory Sentencing Guidelines. The Court described the conduct of the defendants as driven by greed and said that the case was one of the most aggravated cases seen recently by the Court, because of the violation of trust and the number of victims. Finding that Neal Martin posed a risk of flight, the Court remanded him to the custody of the United States Marshal immediately after sentencing. Cole Martin will be permitted to voluntarily surrender to the Bureau of Prisons.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation lead by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Ahearn, the United States Secret Service, Las Vegas (Reno), Nevada Division, under the direction of Gregory Marchio and the United States Postal Inspection Service, New York Division, under the direction of Inspector in Charge Ron Walker.